

NORTH *Bi* NORTHWEST

Newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, a member project of Gay community Social Services

May, June, July 2003

\$3.00

Volume 16 Issue 2

Celebrate!



Join! \$20-50 per year, sliding scale.

Membership includes a one-year subscription to the newsletter.

Make me a card-carrying bisexual.

Enclosed is \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Subscribe! \$12 per year, flexible. I want

to receive the latest bi news, opinions, writing, and art four times each year.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for a one year subscription.

Phone (optional): _____

How did you hear about us? _____

All contributions are tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to SBWN.

Send to: SBWN, PO Box 30645, Greenwood Station, Seattle, Washington 98113-0645

North Bi Northwest is the quarterly newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network. It is produced by women and is feminist in content. We feature news and events pertinent to the bisexual community, as well as creative writing and artwork.

Copyright 1999 by North Bi Northwest (ISSN 1050-4680). *Please let us know before reprinting anything from this publication (see address above), and always credit us with our name and address.*

We welcome submissions from women and men that concern feminism, politics, sexuality, or anything of interest to bisexual women. Help define our culture! Share your histories, anger, pleasure, energy. Send us your essays, poetry, photographs, drawings, book reviews,

short stories, interviews, media reports, rants, cartoons, erotica, journals, theory, conversations and letters. You're important to us and what you have to say is important to everyone.

We accept submissions on disk with hard copy (PC), typed, legibly handwritten copy or e-mail (sbwn@hotmail.com). If you send us something and we publish it, you get a free issue. Let us know what pseudonym you use, if you do not want to publish under your everyday name.

Views expressed in *North Bi Northwest* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of SBWN. Inclusion in this publication does not indicate the author's sexual orientation.

Deadline for submissions to the new issue: July 21st 2003.

SBWN Statement of Purpose

We are a group of self-identified women from diverse backgrounds working to create a feminist bisexual support network. We promote, in both the heterosexual world, and in the lesbian/gay community, the understanding and acceptance of bisexuality as one of many valid sexual identities.

We regard ourselves as part of the community united against heterosexism and homophobia. We are dedicated to the right of all people to define their own sexuality, free from any social, political, or economic coercion. The discriminations we face based on our gender and our sexuality are not the only forms of oppression. We recognize that oppression is non-hierarchical and that none of us is free until all of us are free. We have invested ourselves in the feminist struggle to transform our culture into one free of all forms of bigotry, hatred, and exploitation.

We seek to provide a safe place for women to explore all aspects of their sexual orientation and identity. All women are welcome to attend SBWN activities. We are exclusively a women's group in order to create a safe space for women's expression and leadership. We come together to affirm ourselves and our choices.

North Bi Northwest

Editor:

Cyprienne Schroepel

Technical Editor:

Jan Burke

Staff:

Dedicated Volunteers

PO Box 30645

**Greenwood Station
Seattle WA 98113-0645**

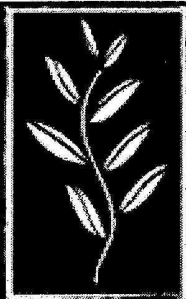
SBWN can always use volunteers to help with a variety of tasks. Give us a call or talk to a facilitator at a meeting.

North Bi Northwest is available by subscription as noted above.



North Bi Northwest is a publication of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, a member project of:

**Gay Community Social Services
P O Box 2228
Seattle WA 98122-0228**



VERBENA

Building vibrant communities for lesbians, bisexual and queer women, and transgendered individuals through health advocacy, education, support, and access to care.

**An
All day
Event
Held
Annually
During
Gay
Pride
Week**

**The Rainbow Women's Health Fair
Saturday, June 28, 2003 10:00a - 3:00p
Pilgrim Congregational Church, Seattle.
(Corner of Broadway & Republican on Capitol Hill)
Free Admission.**

SBWN is a Supporting Sponsor of The Rainbow Women's Health Fair

**Free screenings
available include:**
Bone density
Lung capacity
Blood pressure
Vision
Pap test
Mammogram
Spinal assessment
Depression assessment
HIV test
Cancer risk assessment
Dental
Diabetes

From the Editor...

Hello everyone, I am so excited, it's official! We are going to celebrate SBWN's 20th anniversary with a party on July 19, 2003 at the LGBT Center on Capitol Hill. Through an arrangement with Verbena, who have become co-sponsors of this event, we have been granted access to the Center to hold our celebration there. This will be a mixed gender, alcohol free, eighteen and over event. All I can tell you now is the date, location and the time which will be 6 pm to 10 pm. We are still making plans but we will have canned music for dancing, a raffle and Holly Figueroa (see her website at hollyfigueroa.com) will perform. Watch the SBWN website for further details as they become available.

Bonnie, a member of SBWN, has died of breast cancer. She hadn't been attending meetings this last year as she was battling for her life so many of our current members didn't get to know her. Please get annual mammograms. Bonnie might have lived a lot longer if she had discovered the disease sooner. For some reason the current medical establishment is telling us not to bother with those monthly self breast exams. One of our members has done some research and discovered that the big study the medical establishment is basing this advice on was done on Japanese women who already have a much smaller incidence of breast cancer possibly because they consume a very high soy diet as well as more vegetables, grains and less meat than we Westerners.

The war against Iraq has come and gone but is not over. The USA will be involved with the 'rebuilding' of Iraq both

physically and monetarily for a long time to come. And who will benefit and who will pay for this? Already several big companies are poised to rake in money participating in the

rebuilding while those of us at the bottom are going to be bereft of human services, schools, medical insurance caused by tax rebates for the wealthy and redirection of our nations wealth to pay for the war.

And more bad environmental news, the world's population of big ocean fish is declining at an alarming rate. When will we wake up and accept that our lifestyle, the one the USA is busy promulgating around the world, might be responsible for our sooner rather than later demise as inhabitants of the earth?

In this issue, we have pictures of our trip to the tulip festival and a few comments from the women who went. We have a plea for contact with older members of the bisexual community from a man working on a book. We have a story about the camp for children of LGBT parents, Camp Ten Trees. And much more...

SBWN continues to run by the grace of a few dedicated volunteers. We have altered the meeting schedule to alleviate the burden on the small pool of facilitators. We have one topic meeting and one social meeting per month and a business meeting every other month. We have put the women's poly discussion on hiatus for the summer months due to low attendance and hope to resume that in September if there is enough interest. We will be having a booth at Pride as well as a marching contingent. Some of us participated in a garage sale in Montlake Terrace hosted by one of our members. We have become contributing sponsors of the Rainbow Women's Health Fair put on by Verbena and held the Saturday before Pride. If you are avoiding getting your health checked due to

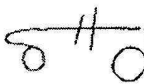
low or no income, please come to the Fair and get yourself seen to.

On the personal side, I am still working temp out on Snoqualmie Ridge though it is a week by week arrangement and I expect to be looking for another assignment any time.

My younger son is staying full time with his dad until the end of school so I have been alone in my house except for the company of my cat, B'Elanna. She resents any time I spend away from the house and greets me with loud entreaties even before I manage to get the door unlocked and enter the house. She sleeps on my bed at night, snuggled close to my legs. I received a telephone call from my oldest son on Mother's Day. He is doing well back on the East Coast but I miss his presence in my everyday life. My youngest gave me a small sculpture of a catfish (a cat's head and a fish's body) and a tee shirt with an image of Ruth, the white dragon from an Anne McCaffrey novel (one of my favourite science fiction writers.) He picked both up at Westercon earlier this year.

Please come and celebrate Bi-sexual pride with us at Seattle Pride on June 29th and please consider marching with us in the Bi contingent. And come celebrate SBWN's twenty years of serving the Puget Sound area at our big party on July 19th at the LGBT Center. See you at Pride and the Party.

PS SBWN has just been informed that our Postal Zip Code has been changed, the address to reach us by snail mail is now SBWN, PO Box 20645, Seattle, WA 98113-0645

Cyprienne


Lesbian Resource Center

**Where women meet, help, entertain,
educate and challenge one another**

- Drop-in, resources & referral, library
- Social & support groups, game nights, trips
- Cabarets, 1st Sunday Brunch, readings
- Advocacy, forums & education
- Tech lab, workshops, monthly paper



Tuesday-Friday: Noon - 7 pm
Saturday: Noon - 5 pm
206-322-3953 lrc@lrc.net

Letter to the Editor:

"People don't seem to realize that it doesn't matter what sexual orientation we have, we are all Americans and have the same rights as heterosexuals. We have never looked for additional rights...ever, unless acceptance by our fellow Americans is a right, that is. Maybe it's time to shut SBWN down until we can see where the gov't stands. OR you may need to put some more advertisements in the SGN and the Weekly to draw more people to the meetings if shutting down is not an option. When I founded the group, the aura about GLBT was not so dangerous politically (though the man on the street would beg to differ). If people see this, maybe they will start coming back to the group to ensure its ability to survive. You can only try to help other Bi-people (as well as GLTs) see what's going on and standing up for their sexual orientation and their Rights. It's important to do so, or Shrub may go ahead and do away with all our rights because we don't fit his "standard" of an American. I find this very frightening indeed. One of the things I'm doing is to check out the group in Cheney, WA, and see where that will lead (if it still exists at all).

Don't get discouraged, Cyprienne, it will work out. It sounds like you're suffering from burnout as we all have when the volunteer position gets to be too much. There is always an ebb and a flow for groups like this, and I think this is an ebb time. When I first started the group, it fluctuated between 5 and 30 with the main being about 7 and those 7 became the core group, then the group went political and I had to drop, but the rest stayed in place. I'm not trying to discourage you further, but all the groups ebb and flow and it takes time for the pendulum to swing to the flow side, where people are joining and participating again. It takes a lot of patience (patients...LOL) to wait out the ebb.

Let me know the status and I will do my best to be there to support you. Maybe we could do some kind of Bi-event here on our property this summer or fall--apple picking to support SBWN and then I'll sell the apples at the Farmers' Market and donate 25% to SBWN?

OR what about a spin-in for SBWN and those who want to learn can donate \$25 dollars to the cause and learn for free? There are tons of things we can do to spur the movement, but we have to have the energy, imagination and the impetus to do it. Keep the faith, C, there are more bisexuals out there than you know... We just have to reach them in ways that will keep them believing in the group."

Good luck to you...

-Jet



In Memory Of

by Sheri

I would like to take a moment to honor the memory of a friend. Bonnie Rankin, a former housemate of mine and SBWN member, passed away on May 9, 2003. She will be missed. Bonnie's story reminds me regularly why advocacy and education around women's health issues is so important.

Bonnie shared a house July of 98 to July 99. It was a tough year, old romances, new romances, break-ups, and assorted long-distance drama. Throughout it all, Bonnie was a patient roommate. I don't know that I ever said thank you enough to her for that. Throughout it all, Bonnie was also uninsured. Part-time student, part-time work, no good insurance option, and no preventive health care...

In the fall of 98 Bonnie volunteered at a NARAL auction and came home with a prize --- a gynecological visit. Crazy busy time, and the certificate was misplaced. A year later, we all moved out and Bonnie found the certificate and went in for a long needed visit. The breast exam found a lump and she had surgery before January 2000. Bonnie was just over 30. I wonder often what could have been done if she had been able to get annual exams.

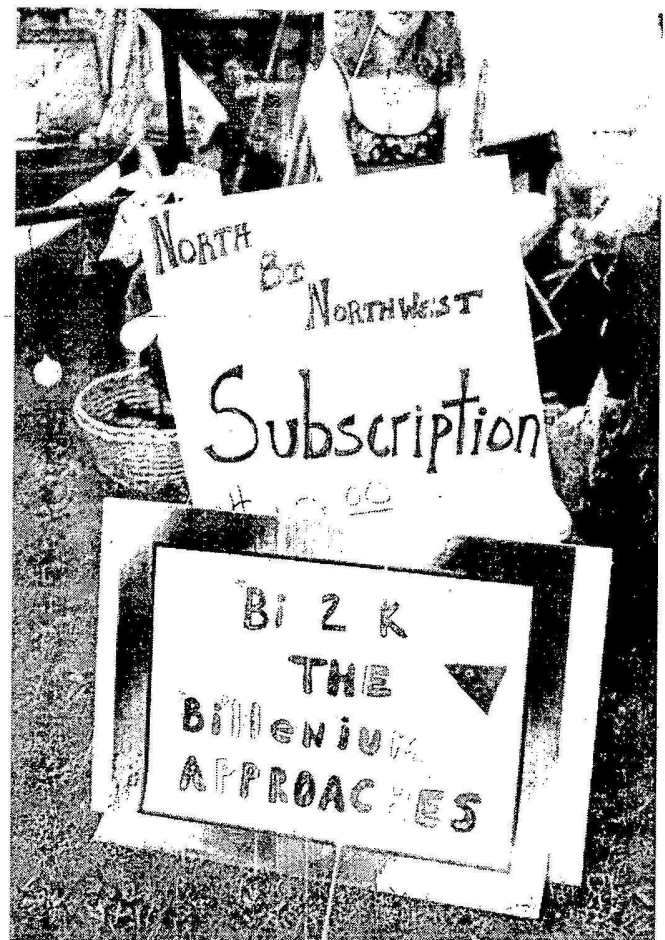
Bonnie battled hard for over three years, and I would like to thank two organizations in particular for providing support for her during this time. The first is the Seattle Lesbian Cancer Project -- now known as Verbena (www.verbenahealth.org). I know that support services and events like Chic Flick night were very important to her. The second is the Bailey-Boushay House where Bonnie lived the last year of her life. They were an outstanding supportive home for her in a time of great need. (<http://www.vmmc.org/dbbailey-boushay/>).

In honor of Bonnie, if you have a moment, do something for women's health. It can be as simple as clicking on the Breast Cancer Site to support free mammograms (<http://www.thebreastcancersite.com/>). Or attend the Rainbow Women's Health Fair (see Verbena's site) and take a friend who needs a free screening. And if you do have coverage, please -- see your doctor, do annual visits, and monthly self exams. Take care of yourself!



▼▼▼▼▼
Celebrate
▼▼▼▼▼
SBWN
▼▼▼▼▼
20
▼▼▼▼▼
Years

Flash Back:



SBWN

1997 to present

Part 1- By Cyprienne

Introduction – By Leilani

SBWN has grown and evolved in some amazing and positive ways. We are celebrating our 20th anniversary and to kick this event off, we're looking back to where we've come from. Like many organizations SBWN has had seasons of growth and change. We had many meetings so large we've split the meeting into two simultaneous meetings, drier spells with lower numbers and volunteer turn over, exciting rebirths of the newsletter, wonderful additions to our volunteer pool, a change in meeting location, and building bridges in the women's community, trans-community and the leather community. Please read on and see how we've grown and when the events and resources you love and enjoy in SBWN got their start.

-Leilani

SBWN is celebrating twenty years of serving the Puget Sound area in July of 2003. I decided to write a short history of the years I have been involved with the group:

In January of 1997, SBWN was meeting in a therapist's office in the Wallingford area of Seattle. The meetings were weekly and alternated on Sunday and Monday nights. Sheri took over the job of treasurer early in the year.

The newsletter, *North-Bi-Northwest*, was on hiatus due to a lack of volunteers to take over the job. The volunteers who had been working on it had reached burnout and a decision was made to halt production until new volunteers came forward. In March of that year I stepped forward and volunteered to take on newsletter production and editorship.

For several months Lizabeth worked with me on getting the newsletter produced although my partner did most of the actual assembly on our home computer. Various members contributed poetry, stories and art work for my first issue.

North-Bi-Northwest resumed publication with the June-July 1997 issue. Because of the amount of work involved in producing an issue, we changed from a bi-monthly to a quarterly publication. The group had been collecting comments and topic suggestions at the end of each meeting

and I added a feature in the newsletter where these were included anonymously.

That year I also became the representative to Gay Community Social Services of which SBWN is a member project. We sent someone to their quarterly meetings to report on what SBWN was up to and to get information about the other member projects of GCSS. We had a marching contingent at Seattle Pride that handed out pieces of candy with our contact information stapled to each piece. We had a double sized booth where Leilani volunteered to do massages to help us raise money and we did body painting for donations.

There was a regular social event, *Dancing at the Easy*, on the second or third Saturday of every month. Some SBWN members attended the Bi Camp Out over Labor Day weekend held near Mt. Rainier and sponsored by the Seattle and Portland chapters of BiNet. Some meeting topics from 1997 were *Love and Sex Questions*, *Hey Dad I'm Queer*, *Aromatherapy*, *Foods that Heal* and *Meditation/Relaxation*.

In 1998 an article published in North-Bi-Northwest was reprinted in a publication from Hawaii called *Out In Maui*. I attended the 5th **International Conference on Bisexuality** in Cambridge, Massachusetts and wrote up an account for *North-Bi-Northwest*. I also included some of the plenary speeches and photographs I had taken. SBWN ran an ad in the conference booklet.

Unfortunately, SBWN did not march at Seattle Pride because there were not enough women but we did have a booth where we sold newsletters, SBWN t-shirts, bisexual themed buttons and magnets with nude photos of genuine bisexual women's body parts. We also raised money by giving massages for donations.

SBWN created a web page on the internet and started sending out weekly lists of our events and meeting topics as well as other events of interest to bisexuals via email.

We had several social events including a hike to a hot springs, a movie night and dancing each month at Pandora's Box at the ReBar. We got some women together at one movie night event and took a photo of five smiling members wearing SBWN t-shirts. I put this into the newsletter with our regular t-shirt ad in hopes of selling more shirts.

We agreed to become co-sponsors of the bi-monthly Poly Potlucks held in a church on Capitol Hill. The Poly Potlucks had been started some years earlier with participation of some SBWN members who wanted to create a social event and discussion group for issues concerning polyamory and polyfidelity and interested in meeting other people with similar interests. In return they started donating part of the money they collected at their bi-monthly meetings.

We received a request from our landlord which caused us to consider changing our meeting schedule to the same night each week. After polling our meeting attendees for the last few months of the year, we decided to hold all of our meetings on Sundays.

In 1998 the final judgment was received on a lawsuit filed several years earlier. In 1994 GCSS doing business as SBWN was sued by a transsexual woman for discrimination under the Public Accommodations Ordinance. The suit stemmed from incidents in 1993 and 1994 where a transsexual woman was denied full attendance at two SBWN meetings due to a policy created earlier by consensus of the women participating in SBWN. The policy was changed a short time after the second incident and transsexual women were welcomed into the meetings. SBWN began paying money to GCSS for our share of the settlement.

Some meeting topics from 1998 were *Roles are made to be broken—Roles & Relationships, Sex and Safety Among Women, Got Any Interesting Scars?, Bisexuality 101 and Handling the Holidays*.

In January 1999 we started the new schedule of holding our support group meetings and business meetings on Sundays. Our rent was raised and we started asking for slightly higher donations at each meeting to help cover the extra cost. One member held a Wine, Women and Song fund raising event for us. We conducted a special facilitator training workshop off site run by Kellie and Anne. Diana started helping with the SBWN web page, turning in into a true website with a calendar of events, future meeting topics and adding links to other sites of interest. Our website moved to geocities.com and our email address to hotmail.com.

We marched in Seattle Pride and had a booth where we sold bi related items and did body painting for donations. We cleared \$120 at Pride. We handed out candy during the march with our website address attached for the first time.

I started using Word instead of Publisher to produce North-Bi-Northwest with much help from Susan who created a template for me to use as well as tutoring me in the use of Word. We talked about doing a photo shoot to create pictures for a new set of nude photo magnets.

We started considering changing our support group meeting location. We visited two potential sites, the LRC (Lesbian Resource Center and the new sex positive community center aka the Wet Spot.) After much discussion we decided to accept the invitation to relocate to the LRC. On November 7, 1999 we held the first meeting at our new location. The move seemed to enhance our attendance. Some meetings were so crowded that we actually had to split into two groups in order to give all women a chance to talk. We recombined the groups for check out to share our experiences. The LRC newsletter included our meeting schedule and listed SBWN on the big calendar they maintained at their location. SBWN established a membership in the LRC and started contributing financially to their support. SBWN started donating books we received for review to the LRC library.

We started asking women to refrain from wearing perfumes and scents to the meetings in order to accommodate some members who were sensitive to them. I went up to the Bi con in Vancouver, B C and took newsletters, brochures and calendars with our upcoming meeting dates and topics. I wrote

about my conference experience and included some photos in *North-Bi-Northwest*.

One social event that year was a **Sex Toys and Sexy Clothes** party held at my house. Women brought toys to show and talk about how and why they used them. We had some lively demonstrations of how to use some of them as well as some sensual modeling of sexy lingerie. There was also a delightful potluck Thanksgiving dinner at one member's home. And a well attended holiday party at another member's home. We discontinued the monthly dancing events due to low attendance and lack of a stable volunteer to meet and greet women at the chosen venue.

Late in the year, Leilani created an email discussion list, named **B-Wild** (bisexual women in lively discussion). Membership was limited to women who had attended at least one SBWN meeting so that participants would be aware of our confidentiality guidelines.

Some topics from 1999 meetings were *Our Bi Bodies, Breast Cancer, Scarf Night, Mothers, Creative Writing Workshop and Lions and Tigers and Lesbians, Oh My!*
To be continued in the next issue of North-Bi-Northwest.



20th Anniversary!

Party time! SBWN's 20th Anniversary bash will be held July 19th at the LGBT Center on Capitol Hill. We'd love donations of goods or services for our raffle. Many items are tax deductible. Cash donations always welcome. Please contact us at SBWN@hotmail.com or 206-517-7767 for pickup and delivery

Softball Dykes



Story and photo by Diana

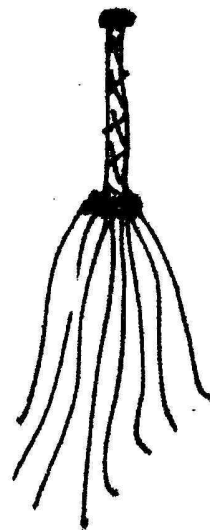
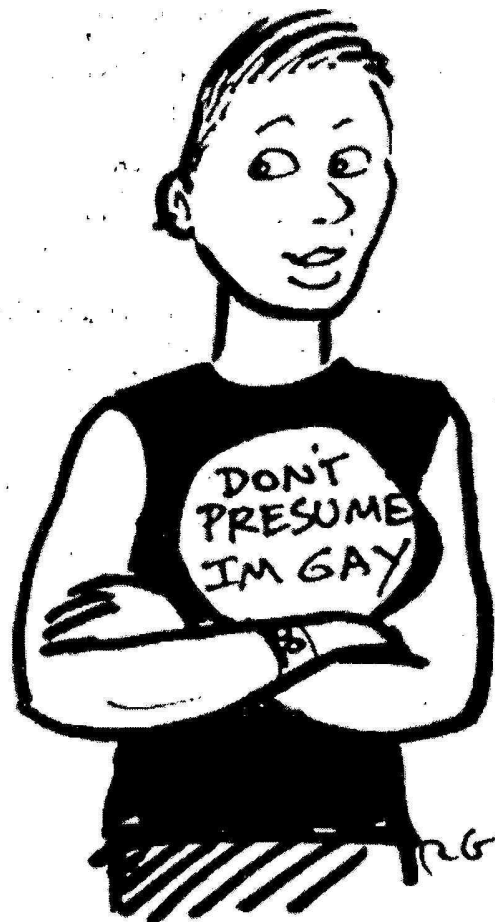
I was flipping through old photos and I couldn't help but notice how many softball pictures I have. Team pictures, silly dugout poses, traditional batting stances, raspberries, ankle bruises, crutches, first aid kits and splints, pictures through fences, standing on bases, bad distant pictures of teammates in left field, partners and pets, bad pony tails and game balls. The claims of the last seasons' stout dyke plays run rampant as our muscles complain on the first day's practice. I banter easily trying to out-bitch the old broad to my left by moaning that I should have washed my knee pads before this day arrived and how she'll need new equipment this year of she plans to actually hit the ball this season. It's at the second practice when we rub the aches and pains received from the first practice, complain about age, past injuries, the rain and wondering if you'll slide this year and risk the three inches of skin that recently grew back a few months ago, that you remember why you do this every year. These are the guts of the sport but that's not why I play.

I play each year to catch up with my old friends and banter with new ones. I brush off the new 22-year-old after a play and share my war stories. I trade stories of moving, children growing up, pets, house repairs from hell, holidays, new trucks and of course, who's sleeping with whom? A few beers and a few weeks down the line the camaraderie only found in team sports binds us together as a family of women. We're married, single, kids, dykes, bi's, straights, older, younger, from other cities, different races and income levels but we are a team.

During the season the fun begins with fans in the bleachers, the famed pea-head club, proud of our small heads and tiny hats, butch sticka's awarded for feats of heroism, blood and other amazing plays. Going out after games, parties on the weekends, camp outs and tournaments take us away from our ordinary lives and give us something to laugh about.

Somewhere near the end of the season dreams of winning the division evaporate and we start talking about how we always said we were playing for fun instead of fame and fortune. We

live large, laugh out loud and bond in the dugout. We pack up after a game, help the wounded, solicit each other for a beer and relive the night of valor and courage. Now that's what softball is all about.



TULIP Festival

SBWN field trip to see the tulips in Skagit Valley
April 5, 2003.



A small group of SBWN women drove up to look at the beautiful blooming fields of tulips and daffodils. We met at the house of a member who lives in Mount Vernon and then all piled into one car, along with her husband, and drove around. We paid for parking at one of the locations where we stopped but that was only two dollars for the car-full. At the other fields we just parked on the side of the road like everyone else. We saw large fields of pink, yellow, white, purple and red tulips and yellow daffodils. I took lots of photographs with my two film cameras and gave my digital camera to another woman to take pictures for the newsletter. It had been raining and there were large puddles of water in some of the areas. It rained off and on with occasional sunbreaks the whole day. We had to wade through some deep, sticky mud at most of the areas we visited. When we finally decided to take a break for a late lunch the skies opened and it poured. We ate at a good Thai restaurant in Mount Vernon. After lunch we went to look at a 'show garden' with wonderful displays of native plants. This garden had several different themed sections including an 'accessible' area with displays of how to garden for people with various physical limitations. I liked the high raised garden beds for people who have trouble kneeling and the partitioned bed for people with visual difficulties. There was even a way to grow plants on an A frame which allowed for easy harvesting while standing.

Cyprienne



I guess I'd say that the festival was lovely with the fresh rain on the flowers and the moments of sunshine interspersed with rain. Lunch with friends and breathtaking fields of flowers made for an excellent adventure. Looking forward to next years festival.

Leilani



The tulip trip sounded like fun.... I was sort of vicariously along in all the planning for it.

Roberta





The tulip festival was really nice. It was chilly, so the five of us bundled up and trekked through the muddy fields. One of the women was a photographer and took quite a few pictures, not only of the flowers but also of the old barns and other things that we happened to find. Most of the tulips were in the early stages of blooming. At the show garden, we discovered a new kind of plant that none of us had heard of before: Fritillaria. It looked kind of like a lady slipper. (The opening of the flower was turned downward toward the ground.) I'm hoping to host another event up here soon, maybe a trip through the art galleries and shops in La Conner:

Ann



WWC

The Women's Welcoming Committee

**A safe place for women to learn about
BDSM**

The WWC meets on the first Tuesday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at the Sex Positive Community Center, 1630 15th Ave West, near the Magnolia Bridge in Seattle.

Meetings are:

- A chance to ask questions
- A place to learn about events
- Open to all women
- Casual
- Free

For more information, including some links to useful resources and instructions for subscribing to the WWC mailing list, visit our web page: www.bent.org/wwc

"No Stars, Just Bisexuals"

By Peter A. Chvnay

A bi woman friend recently introduced me to a depressing term: "gold-star lesbian." Apparently some younger dykes now create pecking orders based on their non-involvement with men. If you've never slept with a man, kissed a man, even touched a man, you get to be a gold-star lesbian. What interests me about this, as a no-star gay man (i.e., bisexual), isn't so much the notion that labels accurately represent people's identities, as the idea that some identities are obviously "better" than others. Experience makes me doubt both points.

I once discussed sexual identity with an older gay man who had previously been married to a woman. His wife knew he wasn't straight, but he loved her, was monogamous with her for years, and enjoyed sex with her; in fact they were still best friends. Naturally, I wondered why he identifies as gay rather than bi, but his reasons made perfect sense: years ago, when he came out, he felt identifying as bi would have allowed people to ignore how much more powerful his attractions to men are. It would have let the world off the hook. Identifying as gay forced the world to see and accept him.

Similar logic, paradoxically, explains why I'm bi. Nowadays, many straights are comfortable with gay identity, because they see it as safely distinct from themselves. Identify as bi, and discomfort sets in. They see a piece of themselves in you, and when it's blended with something different it makes them nervous.

Similar feelings can arise in the gay community. Yet to be truly accepted, I have to use a word that makes people face all of me. For me, that's "bi," even though my own attractions to men are stronger and more consistent than my attractions to women.

People with identical feelings can reach very different conclusions about how to describe themselves. There's no single correct answer, and it's a mistake to think we should seek one: our names for ourselves go right to the core of our being, and should somehow fit who we believe our inner selves to be.

Yet labels also affect our outward lives. I'm not bisexual in quite the same way as my friends whose attractions are more equally balanced, or more other-sex directed. I definitely don't fit the stereotype of the pathetic closet case. But by using the bisexual label, I invite a certain number of assumptions about who I am. Identifying as gay protects some people from the same assumptions, even though they are arguably just as "bisexual" as me, maybe more so.

"Gold-star" theories of identity ignore these troublesome subtleties and presume that it's cooler, or tougher, to be exclusively gay. They cast "bisexual" as a halfway stop, a compromise. They overlook the possibility that as gay identity becomes more mainstream, bisexual identity is less likely to be claimed by people struggling with the closet, leaving bisexuals who really mean it more visible . . . but not necessarily more welcome.

"Gold-star" identities make other people's lives sound easy, while actually making them harder. It's one thing to praise lesbians who manage not to get pressured into heterosexual behavior by mainstream society's compulsions. It's a very different thing to shame lesbians who didn't have the strength or support to resist, and to implicitly disrespect bisexuals who may only be following their genuine desires. Why do people need to feel better than the rest to feel good? Even if we leave aside bisexuals for a moment, are bronze-medal lesbians supposed to feel **BAD** about themselves? Like being a dyke in today's world needs more hurdles? Yuck.

According to gold-star theories, I'm actually much cooler than many gay men and lesbians out there. I'm tainted by my experiences with women, if you must, but just a little. I certainly never did the "heterosexual marriage" bit. If I denied my feelings or renounced my past, I could take at least a silver medal. But what would I really win? And why should I lose anything by calling myself bi?

"Cooler-than-thou" games bore me. Some gay men and lesbians out there should try identifying as bi, to see how it feels. If fears of losing gold-star status come up, think what that means for how "easy" it is to be bi, and about the damage pecking orders in our community do to gay men and lesbians who don't happen to be perfect.

Let me know what you learn. I'll be over here, with the rest of the mongrels.

Party!

Bi THEMED ITEMS FOR SALE

18 AND OVER

ALL GENDERS WELCOME

RAFFLE

DANCING

MUNCHIES

LIVE PERFORMANCE BY
HOLLY FIGUEROA!

SUGGESTED DONATION at
THE DOOR (\$10-\$20)

ALCOHOL FREE EVENT

SBWN's 20th
Anniversary
Party

July 19, 2003
from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm
at the Seattle LGBT Community Center,
1122 East Pike Street.

SPONSORED BY VERBENA

Poetry & Art

Fireside

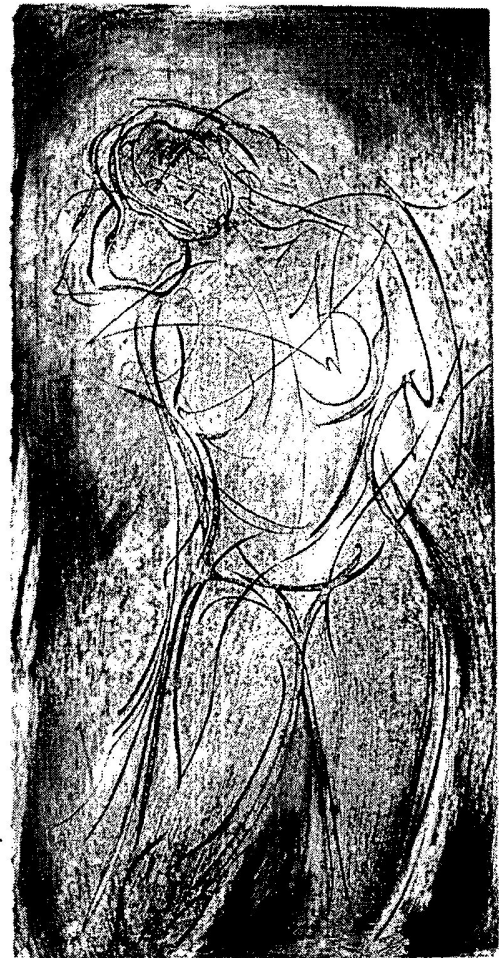
by Bonnie Porter

May 26, 2003

"What about me?" she asks...
Her inner child feeling unacknowledged,
abandoned,
resentful
And I wish I could explain
that my neediness as of late
has been about my child asking that same question.
If only we knew the answer.
God tells us in so many ways,
if we'd only look;
if we'd only listen.
She tells us in puzzles that are sometimes frustrating
but if you're patient & keep trying your best,
you will eventually see a beautiful picture.
He tells us in tragedies that turn into triumphs
and secrets that are finally spoken
Transforming their shame into self-compassion.
She shows us in the warmth of the fire
That we've built on the beach
with love this evening.
What about her?
She is beautiful and worthy and I see past her anger
and I understand her pain...
all the decades of sorrow and confusion.
I want to hold her until the curses become doves of peace
that bring me not an olive branch
but a pure white feather
a spirit gift
plucked from her own breast
to line our nest.

Bonnie Elizabeth Porter
P.O. Box 6162
Kent, WA 98064
sweet_spirit_smile@yahoo.com

Please send a S.A.S.E. & ask
about Kaleidoscope : my
handmade zine, accepting
submissions of poems, short
stories, quotes, artwork,
photography, & more, or to
request a handmade book of my
poetry.



"Home" By Burke

Comments After Meetings

6 April 2003 Abortion

"It amazes me how complicated this deeply personal, incredibly public issue is. Personal choice can have ethical consequences many years down the line."

"Dialog about this issue is important and positive ... it creates understanding and respect. But it didn't change my mind ... it's still clear to me."

"Good to wrestle with these issues in the queer women's community - we're actually very diverse politically, more than I expected when I was in my early 20's."

"This issue is worthy of discussion at all times even though it is a sensitive issue. It is important to discuss all the sides of the issue."

"I am glad that I am still accepted by this group even though I was very anti-abortion and I was very disgusted by this tape."

"This was a difficult topic for me to be part of. I expected controversy knowing some of the attendees and there were strong feelings expressed on both sides. We managed to remain civil towards each other and all leave alive if not happy."

"I am very annoyed by anti-choice people who insist that women who had abortions all come to believe that having an abortion was wrong or suffer horribly."

4 May 2003 Sexual Identity

"Great discussion tonight. It really ranged freely and caused me to think of several things in a new way. I love being able to sit around with a group of bi or bi friendly women and discuss sex, sexuality and identity. It is both supportive and intellectually stimulating. And great intro activities Leilani! Nice work."

"I like starting meetings with the 'arrange yourselves along a line according to the answer to this question' exercise. Good discussion tonight, lots of laughter which is always pleasing."

"I really enjoyed the group discussion. The variety of perspectives and experiences was very valuable. I loved the openness and warmth of the group."

Future topic ideas: Being queer and being spiritual and Integrating your spirituality and your sexuality.



Write for a free 2 - issue trial subscription

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

Only \$25 subscription

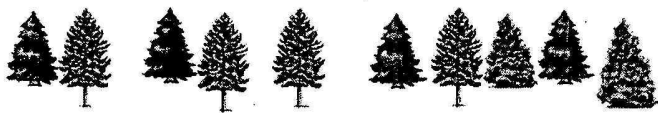
off our backs

- Cutting edge
- Irreverent
- Activist
- Controversial
- Visionary
- Woman-centered
- Radical
- Subversive

The feminist newsjournal for over 30 years

off our backs
2337H 18th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20009

web: www.igc.org/obf
email: offourbacks@igc.com



Camp Ten Trees

by Janice Van Cleve

The LGBT community supports its kids. That's the message that a veritable who's who of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered leaders, parents and friends sent last Saturday night at the 2nd Annual Camp Ten Trees auction. Cathy Campbell, volunteer coordinator, said that \$44,000 was raised to send LGBTQ kids or kids of LGBTQ parents to summer camp this year.

The Atrium at the Seattle Design Center was packed for the event. Over 200 guests showed up to be pampered by Schwartz Brothers catering and to be entertained by Sisters Fairie Clara Voyant, Glo Euro N'Wei, and Olive Thatten Moore of the Abbey of St. Joan. The room was ringed with silent auction items ranging from wine to dinners, music to massage. There was even bat guano and the assistance of a cute gardener to help you use it to landscape your yard! Scores of merchants donated prized items to help the kids, led by the auction sponsors Tiempo, GSBA, and Cruises, Inc.

I was most impressed by the items donated by Camp Ten Trees directors, staff, and the campers themselves. The kind of dedication that leads fundraising by example speaks loudly for the value of this program and the passion of those involved with it. Co-directors Debs "Bagel" Gardner, Michelle "Mojo" Malkin, Shira "Big Chex" Rojen, and Leah "Aloe" Van Enewyk, who founded Camp Ten Trees back in 2000, still run the program. They give their all to see that kids who share the common experience of being LGBTQ, or having parents who are, can come together and find a community that is truly their own.

Camp Ten Trees rents a campground and cabins on the shore of Lake Wenatchee for two weeks in August each year. The 2001 season attracted 34 youth. Last year, 102 youth came to camp. It costs about \$700 per week to support a camper. Grants from the Pride Foundation, Women's Funding Alliance, and generous donors help lower the fee to \$400, but that is still more than most families can afford. That's where the auction steps in. Because of the generous bidding of you spend for dessert, the more you will enjoy it!, she encouraged. "It's only 75 cents a bite." A coconut cr me pie went for \$350. The Tom Thumb table (each table had a fairy tale theme) won the Transberry Pie and the Swan Prince table (Shane, Jeremy, Bill, Jen, Melissa, Chris, and Kevin) not only snagged two desserts but kept right on bidding for more.

The action was so spirited that cards were going up before Mardi had even called for an amount. The prizes got bigger as the evening progressed. A beautiful glass bowl went for \$500 and a safari for two to South Africa went for \$2000. Auctioning the wine gave Mardi the chance to say, "It's fashionable to be seen spending fabulous amounts for wine in public." "It's your choice of spit or swallow!", added the Sisters.

Saturday night's party goes, about 80% of the kids will get some financial help so they can go to camp this year.

Helping such generosity to express itself was master auctioneer Mardi Newman. Her timing was perfect. Just when dinner was finished, she started the bidding with fabulous cakes donated by Borachini's and others. "The more The Camp Ten Trees is about kids so of course many parents brought their kids to the auction. Volunteers entertained youngsters from 6 months to 12 years with games, stories, coloring pens, and toys. Their stories were similar. Sophie, 12, was already a girl scout and didn't want to go to Camp Ten Trees. She refused to talk to her moms for a week when she found out they had signed her up. Sophie returned ecstatic, however. She talked of sharing issues with other kids that she never got to talk about with her peers in school or scouts. In a video shown during the auction, camper after camper told of finally being able to share with peers the concerns of being LGBTQ or having parents that are. "It's such a relief," said one. "I can talk with other kids in the same situation and it's not a big turn off. They understand what I'm saying."

Understanding from peers is why many parents send their kids to Camp Ten Trees. Forrest, 9, is going back this year. His parents, Janice Baird & Evelyn Slechta, said this is the only chance he has all year to spend with kids of gay parents. Joanne, who is currently undergoing gender reassignment, says she is sending her daughters to Camp Ten Trees so they will not feel like the only kids dealing with the issue of a transitioning parent. The kids have such a good time - boating, swimming, singing around the campfire, doing crafts, and learning that they belong to a large and loving family - that they don't want to leave camp and they look forward eagerly to returning the next year.

Camp Ten Trees is a nonprofit 501c3 project of Gay Community Social Services. Registration deadline is July 15. For more information or to register, visit www.camptentrees.org, email info@camptentrees.org, or call 206-985-2864. As one happy camper put it, "I really enjoyed camp a lot. The people are very friendly. I have never been to a camp where everyone could be so open with each other without being embarrassed or getting picked on." Don't we wish we had had a camp like that when we were younger!

www.leilanimassage.com

- Swedish & Hawaiian
- Most Insurance Plans
- Steam & Aromatherapy
- Injury Treatment
- Medical Provider
- Gift Certificates

P. Leilani Berry, LMP #MA7027
SeaTac/Tukwila (206) 248-2001

****The Ultimate Bisexual T-Shirt/Poster/Comeback****

Created by Susan Kane at Ann Arbor

Double your pleasure, double your fun * It's not my fault that you can only think in one direction * Who says I can't? * I love men as much as I hate patriarchy * 100% bisexual, 100% queer * How long can I stay in this phase? * Everybody thinks I'm a lesbian * Kinsey 2.1 and open to suggestions * You can have it both ways * Follow your nature * I am out, thank you * Political lesbianism - not my idea of a good time on Saturday night * Complexity is the spice of life * AC/DC * Yes, I like girls * He's the femme * Well, I don't think you exist either * McKinnon does it * Beware: non monogamous bisexual approaching! * I thrive on confusion * No fats, femmes, butches or bi's - I want her thin and boring * I'm bisexual and I'm not attracted to you * Ky-ky * If it feels good, you must have false consciousness * Bisexual by luck, queer by choice * If I wanted a man, I'd have one * It's not my fault you can't pick a girlfriend * Dworkin's wrong - trust me * Cross boundaries * Kinsey had a limited imagination * Switch-hitter * I like boys, too * What makes you so sure you're straight? * I respect dyke only space * Real feminists claim their own desire * I'm not confused - you are * Get with the 90's * If you think my room is a mess, wait till you see my sex life * I was a lesbian once too * Did I ask your opinion? * I prefer anarchists, actually * No, you can't watch * Commitment is my middle name * I'm not a lesbian, but my boyfriend's a nonoperative transsexual * Don't tell me how to fuck * PC sex is an oxymoron * It's my revolution and I intend to enjoy myself * Equal opportunity lover * I date women or men, not both at the same time * We don't like you either * Hasbian, shmasbian * And what's wrong with a little promiscuity? * Have your cake and eat it too * I just do this to seduce gay men * Schlaffley's a woman and it doesn't seem to help * I made up my mind a long time ago * Get curious * Kinsey 3.5 and counting * I like people * Ask me if I care? * If you poke me, I don't make spores * You can have it all * A woman who can leave you for a man could also leave you for a woman * Mmmm... this fence feels good * Don't tell me you've never thought about it * My girlfriend wants to know who has more straight privilege * Be careful, you could be next * We're here.... *** Bi Pride * Bi Pride * Bi Pride * Bi Pride ***

Reprinted by permission.

March 21, 2003
from Robert J. Clark

Dear Bi Americans;

I am an American Indian researching three projects which I hope to get input from the bisexual community. I am seeking contact with the Elders amongst the bisexual community who as either an adult or child can relate any of the following experiences. If you are a bi person who knew an older bisexual's experiences, then please let me know about this person. I am developing these projects into articles and books.

I am seeking any bisexual who as an adult or a child lived through WWII and has memories to share. I am especially interested in those who served in the military, Red Cross, Civil Air Patrol, civil defense organizations, USO or worked in defense plants. I am also interested in bi persons who lived outside of the USA during the war. A bi person need not have been "out" during the war years to reply.

I am seeking any bi person who feels he or she experienced anything relating to the paranormal or supernatural. This includes: hauntings, premonitions, psychic bonds between people, reincarnation, near death (out of body) experiences, séances, visits to fortune tellers, shape shifting, telekinesis, pyrokinesis, voodoo, magic, extraordinary phenomena such as UFO sightings and crypto zoology (strange or unexplained animals). Seeking any bi person who participates in vampirism and considers himself or herself to be by behavior or culture a vampire or vampire associate (purposeful victim).

Finally, seeking bi persons who are of any indigenous heritage. This includes American Indians, Metis, native Pacific Islanders, Scandinavian Sami (Lapps) and other indigenous ethnicity. This is for a project on indigenous persons survival.

Persons of other sexual minority communities (gay, lesbian, transgendered, 2-spirit) are welcome to reply. I am also, seeking unwanted photographs of bi or other GLT2-S persons that reflect any of the above topics. Especially, bi persons in uniform during WWII. I will use a pseudonym for anyone who asks. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Robert J. Clark
PO Box 685
Collinsville, Illinois 62234

Notes for the Meeting on Sexual Identities By Leilani

What does sexual identity mean? How do you identify? Has it changed over time? Can it change? How does it relate to a sense of community? How do we connect with others around sexual identity? How does this relate to gender identity? What labels if any do you use; lesbian; bisexual; bisexual with lesbian rising; omnisexual; none of these? Do you use other identifiers like poly; mono, kinky, butch, femme. Switch, etc.? Who and when do you tell folks how you identify? Are there other signals of identifications?

Icebreaker/topic sort of exercise where we look at spectrum and linear – either or- in the middle stuff. Where we all get up and get in a line with one wall representing straight and the far wall representing gay. And we line up where we think we fall in relationship to those items.

Disclaimer: either or doesn't reflect all of us and certainly we can change or flux on any number of these items. To opt out, just stay seated.

When we knew we were women-loving-women by age, by feelings, straight – gay, lesbian – bi, mono – poly, butch – femme, kinky – non-kinky, introvert – extrovert, top – bottom.

Attn: Poets Who Write about Bisexuality

SBWN member and another poet seek others to join them in proposing a reading for Bi Conference 8/21-8/24 in San Diego

Write to Jonathan for more info:

jamma@fuse.net. Respond ASAP.

Hand Woven

**Scarves – Shawls – Vests –
Ponchos – Blankets**

By Cyprienne

**Visit the web-site
www.loomwoven.com**

Production Goddess Wanted!

The volunteer position of
Technical Editor
for North-Bi-Northwest
will be open as of January 2004.

Requirements:

- ☞ Enthusiasm
- ☞ Cooperative attitude
- ☞ SBWN member
- ☞ Basic knowledge of graphic design
- ☞ Access to a computer
(with a medium to large memory capacity)

The "Word" program is used to in production of the newsletter, so it is helpful, but not necessary, to have it already. There is plenty of help available in getting to know the position. No problem!

Jan's Note:

Dear Readers;

This year, I turned forty. I guess this is the awkward age when people come to realize that they have been absent minded and clueless all along. My struggle to organize my environment seems to have only exacerbated this sense of chaos in my personal life. It's time to simplify a bit more in preparation for changes coming up for me.

Working on the newsletter over these past two and a half years has been a wonderful and stabilizing experience. It has provided a constant in my otherwise chaotic existence, but now, I see that my future is going to be tied up with opportunities and tasks that will absorb much of the time I am currently dedicating to our newsletter. I am going to be leaving the position of Technical Editor on North-Bi-Northwest's staff at the end of 2003.

Cyprienne has been great support and terrific editor to balance my position as technical editor. Diana and Sheri have also always been available to assist me when I have questions, or to avert last minute disasters. I am so grateful to have had them all as support.

I am sure that there is someone out there who will see that being the technical editor for our newsletter is a fantastic opportunity to brush up on graphic communication skills and get exposure; not to mention the experience of appreciation that is bestowed upon the holder of this position, by the other members of SBWN. If you have been thinking about volunteering to help out with SBWN, please consider becoming the technical editor for North-Bi-Northwest.

More Comments from Meetings:

18 May 2003 Flower Social and Potluck

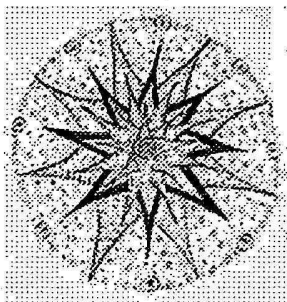
"It was a great meeting. I'm glad I came. It was fun to chat with new and old people."

"Nice meeting/fun conversation."

"Good food, good talk, enjoyed myself."

"Great to know this is here and comforting to see people dedicated to welcoming people."

"Glad this meeting is here. Thank you!"

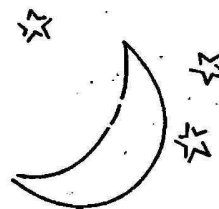


The

"Wu Wu"

Page

"For entertainment only"



♊ Gemini May 21 to Jun 21

Key word: Grace – Generally you meet every occasion with a noble measure of grace and patience, but recent events have tested your resolve to the point that you often wish you could crawl into a hole and disappear. So, do it. Take a few days to yourself. Once you have, you and the people around you will be so much happier. ♀ "What's in it for me?" is all you ever seem to get from others these days. You've spoiled them rotten. Step back, and take a good look at what's in it for you. Decide what your boundaries are and enforce them. You'll be happier for it and others will respect you for it. You're a homebody, and recently you are seriously focusing on your immediate surroundings. Don't let this bother you. You need this time of introspection to prepare you for the next step.

♋ Cancer Jun 21 to Jul 22

Key word: Birth – New beginnings are on the horizon. Whether you are actually pregnant or not, you are on the verge of producing something new and wonderful. Your friends and family will be amazed. You'll be amazed! ♄ The crab in you is about to emerge from it's shell. Don't worry it is a good thing. Giving your approach a critical and pragmatic bent will bring balance to the picture and make impending decisions easier to navigate. This does not mean you will have to fight with anyone or that it is inevitable that you'll step on toes. Just the opposite is true. You will be given the girth you need to operate in this mode. Your peers and relatives realize that this mood change is crucial to your survival. Things will soon to begin to flow in a positive direction for you, once your decision making process is done.

♌ Leo Jul 22 to Aug 23

Key word: Compassion – Compassion seems to be a theme for you these days. Talk about compassion and/or the feeling that you are acutely attuned to the presence of compassion or lack thereof in the actions of others is prevalent. Your discussion on this subject will with others will help them sort out their feelings on the subject. Please share. ♀ Your perspective can help us all, and improve the universe. ♄ There is one influence (a person or perhaps a corporation) in particular that seems especially cold to you these days. Don't count on established agencies to help you out right now. Corruption runs deep in the area you are currently having trouble with. Your own hard work and determination will see you through this difficulty.

♍ Virgo Aug 23 to Sept 23

Key word: Flexibility – It is true that you are pretty flexible, but there is a pet area of yours which you choose not to budge on. Careful inspection of that part of your character will help

you to understand many things about yourself and your past; leading you to a more fulfilling future. ♀ You are anxiously awaiting some news or a new development. While you wait remember that this thing that could be very good for you may be just the opposite for another. Be considerate, when addressing your expectations. Your talk of excitement could hurt someone's feelings. You will magically have what you wish for. You are in fact in a position to make your good fortune work for those who may not have been so fortunate. Share the wealth, but take care of yourself too.

♎ Libra Sept 23 to Oct 23

Key word: Harmony – You have a strong sense of balance, but that is not the same thing as harmony. Equity can be very cold. Look more deeply into the gray area. See what serves all when making the big decisions for your group. Perhaps everyone cannot be accommodated, but the human touch can be very warming. ♄ You are daydreaming so much lately. Your fantasy land is so alluring and fulfilling that you hate to leave it for the drudgery of everyday life. Perk up. You are now making a decision that will cut down on conflict and make real life almost as pleasant as your dream land. It's all in your hands at this time.

♏ Scorpio Oct 23 to Nov 22

Key word: Play – You work too much and you are too worried about what others think about you. Do what you want to for a change. Others may not like it, but you will. ♄ You worry about making movements that will hurt others or your position in life. It is only worry. You have too much restraint to go too far off track. You will be taking a vacation soon, either planned or otherwise. You are able to hold up financially for a short time, but do not forget to check your bank account before you extend your hiatus. An angry or jealous co-worker could be behind your recent exclusion from the mainstream. Keep your ears open. You will learn how to re-establish your standing through passing comments.

♐ Sagittarius Nov 22 to Dec 21

Key word: Surrender – I don't have to tell you how to do that. Sail your ship on a beautiful calm sea. Relax and enjoy this time. Take pictures and keep a journal. Having these things will mean so much to you at a later time. ♄ Your "family" network is such that you never have to go without, and you appreciate that. It's a good thing to see in this time of consumption and entitlement attitudes. Flaunt your appreciation. Others will follow your lead. Soon you will be proud to be in the company of even those you had doubts about. Someone close to you may misinterpret your

generosity to another. You will find this situation to be very revealing. It is indicative of your loved one's character and of the nature of your relationship. It may be cause for change; or it could enhance your relationship exponentially.

♑ *Capricorn* Dec 21-Jan 20

Key word: Release – You're still not learning to release. **I repeat:** It's not your job! Let some one else deal with it. ♄ You have been knocked off balance. It's not money. It's the thought of it. It seems that the world is closing in on you. You have a great deal of knowledge and experience. Use it to better your situation. You have that right.

♒ *Aquarius* Jan 20 to Feb 18

Key word: Delight – The idea of delight is not new to you. Practical application is the problem for you. You have often sat on the sidelines experiencing delight vicariously through others. You need to jump in and experience it first hand. Have fun! ♊ You are missing the point. You have it down in theory but you feel somewhat empty when it is all said and done. The best way to get on the bus and be a part of things is to let down that wall that protects you so well. (This is not to suggest that you should forget about your healthy boundaries. Just let folks in a bit.) Oddly, the new twist on your people skills is just the thing to bring you the what you desire most.

♓ *Pisces* Feb 18 to Mar 20

Key word: God Source – Your spirit is calling you. It's time to shed the restraints of the physical world and get on with your reason for being here. let your sense of the infinite carry you to your goals. ✕ Finally! All that work on your karmic ties is paying off. Trust your guts. it may feel a bit different these days; as if you are resonating with a new energy. You are. But that is a good thing. Your life has finally caught up with your sense of humanity. There is no limit to what you can accomplish now. Don't let gossip or bad news get you down. They are just echoes and final remnants of the past. They will quell and pass soon. It can be easy to get stuck in neutral while you are basking in the warmth of this new loving reality. Remember that you have much more work to do. This is just the beginning.

♈ *Aries* Mar 20 to April 20

Key word: Creativity – You are highly creative and very imaginative. You have hidden it well. You would benefit from the exposure of your creations and abilities. Don't let yourself be intimidated by the attention you receive. You have earned it and it is coming from a positive place. ♈ You are taking small steps toward a momentous change. Your frustration is felt by the ones around you. Your loved ones are very conscious of your need to retain your dignity, and they will do their best to help without causing you undue embarrassment. You've made a honorable decision. Stick with it. It will be the key factor in sorting out and dealing with your emotions.

♉ *Taurus* Apr 20 to May 21

Key word: Transformation– You have begun to make sense of your belief system. Now it is time to apply that belief system to your everyday life. Your spirituality can easily be applied practically to your daily life. This will make every aspect of life much more fulfilling for you. ♉ There is a profitable opportunity coming up. It could breeze by you if you are not keeping your eyes and ears open. You have the tendency to make things out to be worse than they are. Practice functional optimism for a while. That should lift your spirits. There are so many choices for you now. Your mind can give you too many ideas at one time. Try to focus and narrow down the field. Anything that you chose to put your full attention and effort behind will work out well, but scattering your resources will bring you nothing but frustration. Take the time to sit down and sort things out. You will thank yourself later.

Send in your questions for our

Wa Wa page psychic:

Write to cowbone@earthlink.net Or send your questions to SBWN c/o the Wuwu page: PO Box 30645, Greenwood Station, Seattle WA 98103-0645

Our Group:

SBWN Meetings and events are a great way to get to know your Bi –Women's community. Our gatherings help build camaraderie and support networks for our group members. We all have, at one time or another, felt like staying home instead of getting out and making human contact as we know we should. But we know seeing our network of bi friends lifts our spirits. Making a point to get to meetings and take an active part in events, such as Pride and our upcoming 20th anniversary celebration, gives us, as individual bi women, a sense of belonging in a community that is all too often invisible, even to us. We love meeting new people and membership is easy. Our members can be as out or as anonymous as they choose. So don't stay home on event and meeting dates! Please join us as often as you can, and be an active part of a wonderful group of women.

The Newsletter:

Submitting your written or art work to "North-Bi-Northwest" for publishing, is another great way to be an active part of our bi-women's community. We want to include as many voices as possible in every issue. Your individual stories are interesting to us. No two bi women are alike. Each of us has taken a different and unique path to arrive at the point where we are today. There are few of us who have never expressed anything about our journeys in either written or art form. North-Bi-Northwest invites all of our readers to check their old journals and folders to find those forgotten precious words and art. And send them to us! We want to see it from your angle too! There is so much to be learned from one another's deepest thoughts and feelings and so many new worlds to explore, introduce our readers to yours.



NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON **BISEXUALITY** **AUGUST 21-24, 2003**

RADISSON HOTEL MISSION VALLEY SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, USA

The North American Conference on Bisexuality is intended for people interested in bisexuality, sexual and gender diversity. It features three days of interactive workshops, discussions, entertainment and social events. The conference will bring over 700 attendees (including authors, researchers, health care professionals and advocates) from across North America—the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The program begins with one and one-half days of pre-conference institutes all day on Thursday, August 21 and on Friday morning, August 22. The institutes comprise a series of presentations and discussions. Please visit our website for more details and the latest updates.

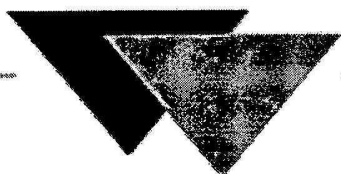
The Conference opens with the Friday afternoon plenary session. On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, there will be 68 workshops, panels, and meetings organized into 9 tracks that express the diversity of interests that encompass bisexuality and gender diversity. On Sunday morning, the workshop sessions will be followed by a closing plenary session. The majority of conference will be in English, but some sessions will be offered in Spanish and French.

The award-winning Radisson Hotel Mission Valley (www.radisson.com/sandiegoca) offers complimentary 10-minute shuttle service to San Diego International Airport, and is close to the San Diego Zoo, Hillcrest, Balboa Park, Sea World, and downtown.

Conference discounts have also been arranged with Avis Rent A Car, American Airlines, and Southwest Airlines. Information on these travel discounts is available on our website.

Register early—the first 500 registrants receive a free Bisexual pendant!

www.bisexual.org/nacb



Bi Con in San Diego

Press release:

San Diego, CA - May 16, 2003
North American Conference on
Bisexuality Announces
Entertainment Line-up

Bisexual singer/songwriter and activist Skott Freedman, Asian pioneer singer/songwriter and poet Magdalen Hsu-Li, local up-and-coming pop/rock star Nicole Kristal and renowned

comedian Rob Yaeger will headline the entertainment at this year's North American Conference on Bisexuality. Hailed as one of the largest gatherings of people interested in bisexuality, the conference, which will take place August 21-

24, 2003 at the Radisson San Diego Hotel, offers four days of top-line entertainment, provocative keynote speakers, informative workshops and social events for all who attend. Early registration deadlines (lower fees) are June 1 and August 1. For registration or more information visit www.bisexual.org/nacb.

Skott Freedman is an internationally acclaimed 23-year-old bisexual singer/songwriter/pianist and activist touring the country with his groundbreaking music and moving lyrics. BILLBOARD hails Freedman as "one of the more compelling pop singer/tunesmiths we've heard in recent times...a star-in-waiting." Freedman (see www.skottfreedman.com) recently returned from a three-week tour in Australia with a spot at the Gay Games.

Magdalen Hsu-Li, is a pioneer among Asian-American women in music. One of the first bisexual Chinese-American singer- songwriters to emerge in the United States as a star in the acoustic/ pop/alternative genre, Magdalen has broken new ground as the forerunner of a new wave of Asian musical artists. Most recently, Magdalen (see www.magdalenhsuli.net) was nominated for a GLAMA (Gay and Lesbian American Music Award) for "Best Out Song" for "Monkeygirl."

Nicole Kristal brings rock-n-roll immediacy and pop snappiness to the singer-songwriter tradition through her unpredictable chord progressions, catchy melodies and intelligent lyrics. A skilled rhythm guitarist of 10 years, the San Francisco native (see www.nicolekristal.com) conveys a staggering range of emotion and ability through an organic, acoustic sound developed entirely outside the confines of conventional music theory.

Rob Yaeger is the Earth's only bisexual, genderqueer, trans-affectional, sex radical, frequently kinky, Catholic-raised agnostic-atheist, safer sex educating, sensitive but not too sensitive, biologically-born male stand-up comedian. Fortunately, his comedy gives him the chance to get all this off his chest. Rob has had just enough interviews, articles and essays about his life published to make it impossible for him to ever run for political office.

Friday evening, August 22, is open-mike where a number of rising singers and comedians will perform. If you wish to take part, contact Skott Freedman, Entertainment Coordinator at: info@skottfreedman.com.

Workshop proposals are due June 15. Submit proposals on-line at: www.bisexual.org/nacb/call4papers.asp. For more information about the North American Conference on Bisexuality, pre-Conference Institutes and to take advantage of our early registration discounts; go to: www.bisexual.org/nacb. For hotel reservations, contact the Radisson directly at 619-260-0111 or on the web at www.radisson.com/sandiegoca.

The conference is sponsored by the Bisexual Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to bisexual community building and empowerment, whose goal is to educate the general public about the needs and concerns of bisexual people and to give bisexuals the knowledge and real-life skill needed to live happier, healthier, more fulfilled lives.

CONTACT:

Co-Chairs:
Fritz Klein at: fritzklein@cox.net
Rich Woulfe at: richtravels@aol.com

Entertainment Coordinator:
Skott Freedman at: info@skottfreedman.com

Marketing Coordinator
D. Luigi Ferrer at: lferrer@bisexual.org and 305-669-3031

Program Coordinator
E. Alexei Guren at: Alexei_Guren@msn.com



Calendar

*Poly Meeting on hiatus until September

6/15/03 6:30pm to 8:30pm Pride Organization & Sign Doodling

6/22/03 6:30pm to 8:30pm Potluck and Business Meeting

6/29/03 No Meeting - Pride March at Volunteer Park

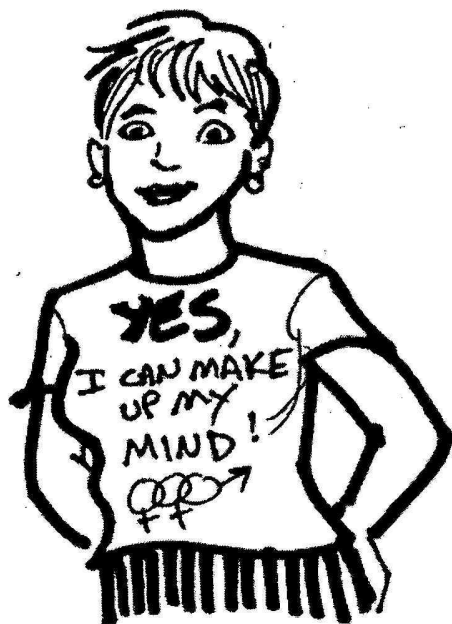
7/13/03 6:30pm to 8:30pm Why Women's Support Groups?

7/19/03 SBWN 20th Anniversary Party! SBWN is holding a party/fundraiser in celebration of twenty years of serving the Puget Sound region. The party is sponsored by Verbena and will be held July 19, 2003 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the Seattle LGBT Community Center, 1122 East Pike Street. There will be a raffle, dancing, munchies, bi themed items for sale and a live performance by Holly Figueroa (<http://www.hollyfigueroa.com>). All genders welcome, eighteen and over, suggested donation of \$10 - 20. This is an alcohol-free event.

7/27/03 6:30pm to 8:30pm Open rap/potluck

8/3/03 Safer Sex/Our Bi Bodies -- A fun lively discussion, promoting our health and well-being

8/17/03 6:30pm to 8:30pm Social/Potluck; Theme TBA



Local Groups

Seattle Bisexual Women's Network—Support and discussion groups at the Lesbian Resource Center at 23rd and Jackson, on Sundays at 6:30 pm. For more information, call our message machine. (206)-517-7767

Our website can now be reached at:

<http://www.geocities.com/sbwn/>

Our email address is: sbwn@hotmail.com

When attending support group meetings, please refrain from wearing perfumes or other scented products for the comfort of all.

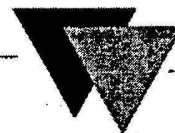
Polyfidelity Discussion Group—Support group and community for people in or interested in multipartner relationships. Discussions and literature on responsible non-monogamy, intimate networks, alternative relationships and community. Bi-monthly potluck discussions, 5:30 pm at the SPCC (Sex Positive Community, aka "The Wet Spot," 1630 15th Ave W., Seattle, WA. For more information call: (206)-728-4533. [Http://www.scn.org/~spg/index.html](http://www.scn.org/~spg/index.html)

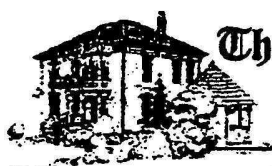
Seattle Bi Men's Union Contact through e-mail: seattlebiguys@hotmail.com or visit the website: <http://www.binetseattle.org>

Asian Lesbian Bisexual Alliance
P.O. Box 14232, Seattle, WA 98114
<http://www.alba.org/alba.asp>

Yin.com is a website listing Seattle Women's Events and web sites. <http://www.yin.com>

Bisexual Options Chat, Personals, Resources, Conferences, Books/Video, Klein -Sexual Orientation Grid <http://www.bisexual.org/>





The English Inn

Bed & Breakfast

Martin & Jennifer MacGillonic
718 F Street
Port Townsend,
WA 98368

(360) 385-5302
(800) 254-5302

www.english-inn.com

A \$10 donation will be given to SBWN every time a member stays at the English Inn.